

Salem Lamartine 11:00 10/6/68

\*Processional Hymn 239  
\*Call to Worship pg. 218  
\*Confession of Sin  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
Scripture I Corinthians 1;1-17  
\*Gloria Patri  
\*Apostles Creed  
\*Pastoral Prayer  
Anthem  
Announcements

\*Offering, Response, Prayer  
Hymn 272  
Sermon  
Prayer & Lord's Prayer  
Hymn 252  
\*Benediction  
\*Threefold Amen

St. John Emlenton 9:30 10/6/68

\*Processional Hymn 41  
\*Choral Call to Worship  
\*Confession of Sin  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
Responsive Reading Sel.59 Pg. 606  
Hymn 76  
Scripture I Corinthians 1; 1-17  
\*Gloria Patri  
\*Apostles Creed  
\*Pastoral Prayer & Response  
Anthem  
Announcements

Offering & Prayer  
\*Hymn 270  
Sermon  
Prayer & Lord's Prayer  
\*Hymn 478  
Benediction  
\*Threefold Amen  
\*Postlude

Call to Worship: Praise the Lord. For it is good to sing praises to our God: for he is gracious, and a song of praise is seemly.

Call to Confession: Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Let us come to the Lord in confession.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

God so loved the world, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mention nominating committee and asking for con. members.

Changing by laws to make two terms and out. *W*

Tom McCoy in Harrisburg Hospital

VISITORS WELCOME?

ROGERS ORGAN

CONFIRMATION CLASS

*NEW LOOK  
COMING UP.*

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 Ralph C. Link, Pastor  
 Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.  
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP October 10, 1971

The Organ Prelude  
 \*The Hymn of Praise 21  
 \*The Call to Worship  
 \*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)  
 Our Father, we do not want to come to thee  
 to confess our rebellion against thee. In  
 shame we try to hide our wild spirits. Yet we  
 are compelled to prostrate ourselves before  
 thee, for there is nothing within us that can  
 bring us peace. Have mercy upon us, O Lord,  
 that by thy grace the warfare that we know so  
 well may cease and we may worthily honor thy  
 name and render unto thee an acceptable  
 offering of our lives; through Jesus Christ,  
 our Lord. Amen.  
 \*The Lyric  
 \*The Assurance of Pardon  
 The Scripture-----I Corinthians 1:1-17  
 \*The Gloria Patri  
 Anthem (Trinity)  
 Pastoral Prayer  
 Announcements  
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings  
 \*The Doxology  
 \*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer  
 The Hymn of Meditation 207  
 The Sermon-----"God Or Man?"  
 The Sermon Prayer  
 \*The Hymn of Response 466  
 \*The Benediction  
 \*The Threefold Amen  
 \*The Postlude  
 \*Congregation Stands

# GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Take note* Harvest Home will be Oct. 24th in both churches.  
 No home canned goods will be accepted this  
 year.

## CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

< OCWM is behind. We need \$180 per month to  
 meet our quota. If you have not made your  
 contribution, please consider it.  
 < Nominating Committee: George Leppard, Russell  
 Reub, Ruth Liddick, Janet Borman.  
 Heidelberg Class will meet Tues. Oct. 12th  
 at 7:30 P.M.  
 Missionary Circle will meet Tues. Oct. 12th  
 at the home of Hester Steele at 7:30 P.M.  
 < Mrs. Florence Haas is in the Harrisburg Hosp.  
 C Bldg. Room 101.  
*JOHN McCoy Announces Hospital*  
 TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

< Consistory Meeting Tues. Oct. 12th at 7:30  
 P.M. at the church.  
 < Oct. 3-17 any kind of clean clothing is be-  
 ing collected by the Ladies of the Church  
 for the Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Miss. On  
 the back tabel an offering plate is placed  
 for offerings to be used for the postage and  
 handling of these clothes.  
 < Mrs. Verna Magee is in room 436 at Hershey  
 Medical Center.  
 < The Planning Fellowship Tour of Perry County will  
 be Thurs. Oct. 14th. See bulletin board for  
 details.

## Paul's Letter to the Corinthians

Text: 1 Corinthians 1; 1 - 17

1 COR.

Probably most of us have read and reread Paul's letters several times. I think we have all probably read at least the 13th chapter of 1st Cor. This is one of the most familiar of Paul's letters and one of the best loved. However much of Paul's writing seems a little strange at times and at times it's meaning may not be clear to us. Perhaps if we knew some of the background and the circumstances surrounding the writing then the meaning would be much clearer. So let us take the portion of 1st Cor. which was our Scripture for today and look at it closely.

Corinth was a city in southern Greece. It was famous for its luxury, commerce and art. As most ancient cities it was founded and settled for two reasons. First was water and second was defense. If a place had an abundance of water and was not easily overrun then it was considered ideal for settling. Corinth met both of these requirements. Paul first arrived in Corinth in 50 A.D. <sup>HE STAYED ABOUT 2 YEARS</sup> He came back 5 years later and remained for 3 months.

The letters which Paul wrote followed a pattern much as ours do today. To begin with a letter first told of the sender. In the first verse of 1st Cor. it states, "From Paul, apostle of Jesus Christ at God's call and by God's will, together with our colleague Sosthenes." <sup>Sosthenes is thought to have been a leader of the synagogue</sup> This is the name of the sender. We sign our letters at the end, but in ancient times the sender inserted his name at the beginning. Next came the name of the addressee. So in verse 2 it states, "To the congregation of God's people at Corinth." Next came a greeting. Verse 3, says, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Next came a thanksgiving. Paul states, Page 14. After this comes the body of the letter. Then at the end is a benediction. Paul closes this letter in the 16th chapter with the words, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, My love to you all in Christ Jesus. Amen". This is the form that ancient letters took and if we go through the writings of Paul we will see that this pattern holds pretty true to form.

Paul's reason for writing to these people becomes self evident after

a few verses. There was disorder and disunity as well as divisions in the Church of Corinth. Paul was writing to heal this breach and to bring harmony to the Church. There is an illustration that has been given that points out how some of these Greek Christians were accepted by their fellow <sup>GREEKS</sup> ~~men~~. The Greek Christians who were soldiers were always being made sport of. One of the examples of this was a picture that was drawn on a wall. It showed a man on a cross, and the head of the man was that of a donkey. On the ground was a man kneeling, with his arms outstretched. Underneath the picture was the caption, "Alexandrus worships his God." This was the unbelief that Paul was confronted with. The people of the Corinthian church were torn between their old religions and pagan Gods and worshipping their chosen God. They were made fun of and suffered torment at the hands of those who did not accept Christ. Then to top it off they were divided among themselves in the Church. Here is where Paul begins the body of this letter. He starts off by attacking the problem right at the beginning. We <sup>CAN</sup> ~~have to~~ try to picture the man Paul pacing back and forth as he dictated the letter to a secretary. <sup>HOW HE MUST HAVE BEEN IN DEEP THAT</sup> This by the way is how his letters were composed, by dictation. ~~Paul states page 17.~~ The main problem of division is attacked by Paul very quickly. The congregation was split into groups. Each group claimed to be led by a different apostle. Paul takes the group of his followers and points out that it was not he who died on the cross. The ones who said they were Paul's men were most probably his first converts in Corinth. The ones claiming to belong to Apollo were followers of a very eloquent speaker and a man who was skilled in the interpretation of Scripture. Perhaps he gained supporters because some of the congregation preferred his style of preaching to that of Paul. The group that followed Cephas were followers of Peter, since Cephas is just another name for Peter. Then finally there was a group who claimed "I am Christ's". Here Paul points out that Christ belongs to all men and not just a group of special people. Paul insists that his converts were not baptized in his name since the name meant ownership. If you will recall when someone is baptized in the church it is done in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To the Corinthians this took on importance. It meant they belonged to Christ. It is rather comic how Paul states, Thank God, I never baptized one of you, except Crispus and

and Gaius." Then he goes on to say, "So no one can say you were baptized in my name. Oh yes I did baptize the household of Stephanus; I cannot think of anyone else." Then he goes on to state his real purpose for being an apostle of Jesus. (Bottom of page 17)

Here again we can draw parallels from this letter. Once again we can see that this is a very timely message. In our world today and especially in our nation at the present time we can see evidence of what Paul was faced with at Corinth. There are people who are willing to stake their all on the fortune or misfortune of those men who are running for public office. One man tells us we will be able to live comfortably without fear of this or that. Another one tells us that if he is elected he will change many things and take care of us in different ways. Still others tell us other things. We have hundreds of thousands of people giving their time, their energies and all they can spare to get some people elected. And for what? So they can gain something personally. Yet these same people would feel imposed on if they were asked to serve their Lord in much the same way. Ours is the task of teaching and preaching Jesus Christ. We are the nucleus from which the kingdom of God can be advanced. We need to re-commit ourselves and to take a new look at our aims, our goals, and our purposes.

There are times when we become untracked and find that we are lost along the way. This is nothing to be ashamed of, or to fear. This happens to everyone at one time or another, and it is possible for it to happen many times. For you see we are living in an age that many times can make us forget or become unaware of what it is we are trying to do. This is probably the greatest hardship the modern church has to face. How can something plain and simple as the Gospel of Jesus Christ compete with television, computers, the space race, modern medical advances, social security and so on? These are all things that you and I have almost accepted as common place. People today think that the church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is too tame. The Sermon on the Mount can't begin to be as thrilling as a countdown at Cape Kennedy. The story of the birth of Christ is too tame as compared to the market reaction on Wall Street. The crucifixion can't be even classified in the same thrilling way as sitting and watching a picture

that is taking place thousands of miles away. Yet we can see it at the instant it occurs.

But here is where we are losing our perspectives. God never said that we should not be comfortable nor happy. He never said that in order to live a religious life we must be miserable. But too often this is what we interpret Christianity to be. If we enjoy life we feel guilty and therefore rather than feel guilty we push our religion away until we want to use it again. This is our failing. But here is where we need to re-evaluate our religion. We need to stop and ask ourselves just where we are going. We need purpose to live a religious life and we need to have our goal set firmly before us. This is what Paul did, and this is what he was saying when he stated, "Christ did not send me to baptize, but to proclaim the Gospel." This is what we all should be doing. The proclaiming of the Gospel is not reserved for just the clergy. It is the duty and the task of each one of us.

As I read this Scripture I got to thinking that sometimes in our Churches we become so bogged down with rules and regulations that we thwart the will of God. We lose sight of our real aim and purpose. This is a common failing of man, and it must have been just as prevalent in the time of Paul as it is now. Paul was trying to cope with a situation in which the members of the Corinthian congregation were divided and actually following or being loyal to other men instead of God. This is where the danger lies. We belong to God. We should be following Him and not man. We must place our lives and our complete beings in His hands. To look to man for our salvation is to look in vain. Our men in government can give us public assistance. They can give us social security, and they can promise us all other kinds of material things. But they cannot give us salvation. This only can come from God. Nor can the peace of mind and soul come from man. This too only comes from God. We belong to God and someday we will return to Him. So until then we should be following God instead of man. In the words of one of our hymns, "God of earth and altar, Bow down and hear our cry, Our earthly rulers falter, Our people drift and die; The walls of gold entomb us, the swords of scorn divide, Take not Thy thunder from us, But take away our pride." This should be our theme.

This should be our goal. To follow wherever God leads. To live the Christian life daily and to not let man become the one we follow. Another hymn that we sing in Sunday school says, "Where He leads me I will follow, where He leads me I will follow. Where He leads me I will follow. I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way. God grant that we may go with Him all the way. Let us pray.